

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 20-23, 26 and 27 have been examined.

I. Prior Art Rejections

In the current Office Action, the Examiner cites to two new references, i.e., US 2003/0231276 to Miki et al. ("Miki") and US 6,292,249 to Kane et al. ("Kane"). In particular, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyazaki (previously cited), Miki and Kane. Claims 4, 8, 15, 16, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyazaki, Miki, Kane and Hirakata (previously cited). Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyazaki, Miki, Kane and Tani (previously cited). Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 12, 13, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyazaki, Miki, Kane and Shimizu (previously cited).

The above rejections are respectfully traversed. In particular, the filing date of Miki (i.e. June 16, 2003) is after the filing date (i.e. March 17, 2003) of Applicant's foreign priority document JP 2003-071197. Accordingly, Applicant is hereby removing Miki as a prior art reference by perfecting the claim to foreign priority. Submitted herewith is a verified English translation of JP 2003-071197. The removal of Miki overcomes all current rejections of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 20-23, 26 and 27.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/777,705

II. Conclusion

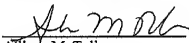
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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